

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 FEA-02 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 CIEP-02 DODE-00 PA-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, UK

SUBJECT: NEW MINERS' INITIATIVE - FLASH IN THE PAN?

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE NUM EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN RECALLED TO AN URGENT MEETING TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 12) AFTERNOON TO CONSIDER A SPECIAL CASH OFFER BY A GROUP OF INDUSTRIALISTS, IF THEY DECIDE TO END THE LESS THAN 48-HOUR OLD STRIKE. END SUMMARY

2. NUM OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MEETING TODAY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH INDUSTRIALISTS, INCLUDING GODFREY BRADMAN, WHO ALSO REPRESENTS A FIRM OF LONDON BANKERS, TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE "BRIDGING PAYMENT" TO TIDEOVER THE MINERS UNTIL THE PAY BOARD RECOMMENDATION ON RELATIVITIES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. THIS OFFER WOULD REPORTEDLY PROVIDE 80,000 POUNDS A DAY TO BE SHARED OUT AMONG 260,000 MINERS FOR ABOUT THE 3-4 WEEKS IT WOULD TAKE BEFORE THE PAY BOARD'S REPORT COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

3. AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE AT THE NUM HAS TOLD US THAT THE INITIATIVE COULD LEAD TO A SETTLEMENT BUT
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THAT HE WOULD HESITATE TO SAY WHICH WAY THE EXECUTIVE

WILL GO ON THIS ONE. HE THINKS IT IS, HOWEVER, A
VERY SERIOUS OFFER AND WHICH COULD PROVIDE AN INTERIM
SOLUTION. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS
ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE - ONE OF WHICH IS THAT THE
INDUSTRIALISTS' OFFER WOULD START FROM MARCH 1 -
WHEN THE CURRENT NUM AGREEMENT ACTUALLY RUNS OUT -
AND THE NUM NEGOTIATORS ARE INSISTING THAT IT BEGIN
TO TAKE EFFECT FORTHWITH. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE,
THE OFFER WOULD INVOLVE A SUM TOTAL OF 9-L/2 POUNDS
TO EACH MEMBER WHICH WOULD BE SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THE
REPORTED 80,000 POUNDS FIGURE.

4. COMMENT: IF THIS INITIATIVE IS SUCCESSFUL IT WOULD
HELP TO DILUTE ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS OF THE CONSERVATIVE
PARTY WHICH CENTERS BLAME ON THE EXTREME LEFT IN THE
MINERS FOR THEIR INTRANSIGENT POSITION. THIS IS AN
ARGUMENT WHICH THE MINERS ARE VERY WELL AWARE OF.
HOWEVER, THIS INITIATIVE COULD BE ONE OF THE MANY FALSE
OR FRUITLESS TOOINGS AND FROINGS WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED
THE SAD HISTORY OF THE MINERS' DISPUTE. AN IMPORTANT
LABOR JOURNALIST CONSIDERS THIS MOST RECENT SURPRISE
MOVES AS SO BIZARRE AS TO BE UNBELIEVABLE.

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